

5A GRAMMAR distancing

a Rewrite the sentences with *It* + clause.

1 The government appears to be planning to raise taxes.

It appears that the government is planning to raise taxes.

2 Men seem to be more at risk from this disease than women.

3 She appears to have changed her mind since I last spoke to her.

4 You seem to be unable to deal with this problem effectively.

5 The weather seems to be about to improve.

6 The robbers appear to have been wearing face masks.

b Rewrite the sentences beginning with the **bold** phrases.

1 It is thought that **the finance minister** is about to resign from his post.

The finance minister is thought to be about to resign from his post.

2 It is expected that **a spokesman** will make an announcement later today.

3 It is believed that **more than half of the population** suffers from headaches.

4 It is said that **St Petersburg** is one of the most majestic cities in the world.

5 It is thought that **at least 70 people** have been injured as a result of the explosion.

6 It is expected that **the economy** will grow over the next six months.

activation

c You are a TV newsreader. Use the following pieces of gossip to prepare an official news report about a famous actress, Blanche Devoy. Be careful to distance yourself from the people's claims using a range of structures from **a** and **b** above.

*Actress Blanche Devoy was said to be close to a nervous breakdown last night.
It has been suggested that...*

She's close to a nervous breakdown because the paparazzi follow her everywhere.

Her husband Jeff left her last week, and she was seen at a party last night with another man.

Jeff's going to file for divorce and Blanche won't have anything left after she's paid the lawyers.

Blanche doesn't have any real friends, only people who want to be famous like her.

The box office earnings for her new film were very low and her career is in ruins.